

# MEDICAL COMMITTEE FOR A NON-POLITICAL WHO

9 EAST 40TH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016 • (212) 532-5005

June 28, 1978

JUL 3 1978

Prof. Joshua Lederberg  
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Dear Colleague:

On May 23 the World Health Organization adopted the enclosed "draft resolution" censuring Israel regarding the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied territories. This important U.N. humanitarian body has been again manipulated to serve tendentious political interests unrelated to its work.

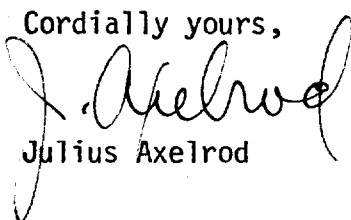
We believe that it is essential to protest this action, and have prepared the enclosed statement to be sent to WHO headquarters, to colleagues in other countries, and issued to the press.

Because of your distinctive position and your former or current work with WHO your endorsement, in addition to ours as sponsors, would strengthen the effectiveness of the message.

For your convenience a form for your signature has been included below the statement. If you concur, kindly return it to us as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation. .

Cordially yours,



Julius Axelrod

JS/dh  
Enclosures

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The WHO Resolution demonstrates once again that this specialized agency of the United Nations, the source of pride for its many achievements in the area of human health and welfare, has been diverted into the dangerous and sterile path that has affected other U.N. agencies in the past, transferring their purpose from human welfare to that of partisan political warfare.

Peace in the Middle East will not be achieved by political resolutions pushed through non-political organizations but by discussion and negotiation of all the sensitive and delicate issues between the parties to the conflict themselves.

I am pleased to endorse the above statement.

Name:

Institution:

Julius Lederberg  
Rockefeller University  
(for identification purposes only)

**Dr. Julius Lederberg**

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New York, NY 10021**

DRAFT RESOLUTION  
HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB  
TERRITORIES INCLUDING PALESTINE

THIRTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING RESOLUTION WHA30.37, ADOPTED ON 15 MAY 1977 AND PREVIOUS  
RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING HEALTH CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED  
PERSONS, AND RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS,

ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, THE UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS,

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND IN PARTICULAR  
THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN  
PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR, OF 12 AUGUST 1949,

TAKING NOTE OF THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE HEALTH  
OF ALL PEOPLES IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE AND  
SECURITY AND AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING PROPER HEALTH  
CONDITIONS FOR ALL PEOPLES, PARTICULARLY THOSE PEOPLES SUFFERING  
FROM EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN OCCUPATION AND  
SETTLER COLONIALISM,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
APPOINTED TO STUDY THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING PALESTINE  
(DOCUMENT A/31/37),

BEARING IN MIND THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WAS UNABLE  
TO FULLY DETERMINE THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THOSE  
TERRITORIES DUE TO THE BREVITY OF ITS VISIT TO THE REGION AND TO  
THE LACK OF STATISTICS AND DATA ON THE SERVICES AVAILABLE THERE,

CONVINCED THAT THE OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE GRAVELY AFFECTS  
THE HEALTH, SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE POPULATION UNDER OCCUPATION AND THAT THIS CAN BE ONLY  
RECTIFIED BY THE COMPLETE AND IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE OCCUPATION

DECIDES:

FIRST

(1) TO EXPRESS ITS THANKS TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR ITS  
EFFORTS AT THIS STAGE,

(2) THAT THE COMMITTEE CONTINUE ITS TASK AS DEFINED BY RESOLUTION  
25.73 BY VIRTUE OF WHICH IT WAS ESTABLISHED AND SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTIONS  
AND PURSUE ITS STUDY OF THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB INHABITANTS  
OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

SECOND

TAKING NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE

## **OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE**

1. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION WHA 30.37, AND REQUESTS THAT HE CONTINUE HIS COLLABORATION WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IN PROVIDING ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINE PEOPLE,

2. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, AND TO ENSURE THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED FUNDS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES,

3. CALLS UPON THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO EXERT ALL EFFORTS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB INHABITANTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, (DOCUMENT A31/37) THAT HE MAKE USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND THAT HE SEEK ASSISTANCE IN THIS RESPECT FROM ARAB ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THIS FIELD INSIDE THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, WITHOUT ANY INTERVENTION BY THE OCCUPYING AUTHORITIES.

### **THIRD**

1. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN AT THE POOR HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS SUFFERED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES,

2. CONDEMNS THE INHUMAN PRACTICES TO WHICH ARAB PRISONERS AND DETAINEES ARE SUBJECTED TO IN ISRAELI PRISONS, RESULTING IN THE DETERIORATION OF THEIR HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS,

3. CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ITS REFUSAL TO IMPLEMENT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS CALLING UPON IT TO ALLOW REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES,

4. CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ITS REFUSAL TO APPLY THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF 12 AUGUST 1949,

5. CALLS UPON ISRAEL TO DESIST FORTHWITH FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND FROM REQUISITIONING AND CONFISCATING ARAB LANDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE SETTLEMENTS, AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE SETTLEMENTS DEPRIVES THE INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THEIR RIGHTS IN THEIR LAND AND PROPERTY AND THE ENJOYMENT OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, THEREBY AFFECTING THE HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THOSE INHABITANTS,

6. CONSIDERS THAT THE PERSISTENCE OF ISRAELI OCCUPYING AUTHORITIES IN ITS ARBITRARY PRACTICES AFFECTING THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB INHABITANTS, CHANGING THE STRUCTURE OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES IS A MATTER THAT NECESSITATES MEMBER STATES TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF THE MEASURES STIPULATED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

### **FOURTH**

DENOVING THE MILITARY ORDER 745 OF 4 JANUARY 1978 ISSUED BY THE

ISRAELI MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE WEST BANK ZONE, CONCERNING THE PRACTISING AND THE LICENSING OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS IN THE WEST BANK OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, THUS FURTHER CHANGING IN THE LEGAL STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, IN PARTICULAR:

(A) GRANTING, WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWING LICENCES, CONTRARY TO EXISTING AND ACCEPTED PROFESSIONAL RULES,

(B) FORCING THE MIGRATION OF ARAB MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNEL, AND IMPOSING RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS ON THE INHABITANTS AS REGARDS THE

PRACTICE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS.

CALLS UPON ISRAEL TO DESIST FORTHWITH FROM CHANGING THE LEGAL STATUS OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, AND TO IMMEDIATELY NULLIFY THE AFOREMENTIONED MILITARY ORDER AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR ORDERS.

# MEDICAL COMMITTEE FOR A NON-POLITICAL WHO

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## Statement on Politicization of WHO

WHO was founded to be a specialized agency of the United Nations, to care for the health and psychological welfare of the peoples of the world, regardless of political considerations.

We are disturbed by the Resolution adopted by the Assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva on May 23, 1978, regarding the state of the health services provided by Israel in the territories occupied by her in the course of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The WHO Resolution makes statements and draws inferences that are neither truthful nor justified. The accusation that the inhabitants of these territories suffer poor health and psychological conditions flouts the findings of the WHO Committee which twice visited the territories and received the cooperation of the Israeli authorities in its work, and which, in its report, though basically hostile to the Israeli authorities, could not ignore mention of the positive improvements seen to have taken place in the area of health care and health services since June 1967. The Resolution's accusation that the Israeli military authorities are changing the legal status of the medical and health professions in the territories and thereby forcing migration of Arab medical and health personnel has no basis in reality.

The recent WHO Resolution, in calling for immediate Israeli withdrawal from the territories and making additional political demands, entirely disregards the aims and objectives of the World Health Organization.

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